

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING SERVICE ACQUISITION IN
A LOCAL AREA NETWORK DEVICE**

ABSTRACT

5 A method of and WLAN device that is arranged and constructed to control service acquisition includes a transceiver for coupling to a second WLAN device; a user (I/O) for interacting with a user; and a controller for deciding whether the transceiver will enter a service acquisition mode thereby coupling to said second WLAN device by; determining a parameter that corresponds to a present environment for the WLAN 10 device; comparing the parameter to a predetermined value to provide a comparison, the predetermined value defining, in part, an environment where service for the WLAN device is desirable; analyzing the comparison according to a rule to provide a decision; and enabling the service acquisition mode when the decision is favorable; and otherwise forgoing service acquisition.